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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE 2818

UNCLAS STATE 081651

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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: KNNP MNUC PARM PREL NL
SUBJECT: ISN LETTER OF THANKS TO NETHERLANDS PSI PRESENTER

REF: A. STATE 023580
B. STATE 069357

¶1. SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND: On May 29, 2008, the United States hosted a Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) Outreach Workshop in Washington, attended by representatives of 21 countries that have not yet endorsed the PSI, as well as most of the 92 PSI participating states. The workshop provided detailed information on the broad range of PSI activities and tools that have been developed for training, organizing for, and conducting interdictions of shipments of proliferation concern. Carl Peersman, Legal Counselor, Netherlands MFA, gave a presentation on legal issues related to interdiction, disposition and liability (copy can be forwarded upon request).

¶2. ACTION REQUESTED: Embassy is requested to deliver under appropriate cover the following letter from Acting Assistant Secretary Patricia Mc너ney to Mr. Peersman, thanking him for his presentation. There will be no signed original.

¶3. Begin text of letter:

Dear Mr. Peersman:

I would like to thank you for giving the presentation on "Interdiction, Disposition and Liability" at the May 29, 2008 Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) Outreach Workshop in Washington, DC. Your presentation made an important contribution to the Workshop.

I believe the Outreach Workshop was very successful both because it informed states of the many ongoing PSI activities and because it provided states with concrete ways to improve their capabilities to stop WMD-related trafficking. The United States greatly appreciates the significant role that The Netherlands plays in advancing the PSI's goals, including in outreach. We believe that we must continue PSI outreach, both to encourage more states to endorse the PSI and encourage states that have already endorsed to participate more actively. We look forward to continuing our work together in support of the PSI.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Mc너ney
Acting Assistant Secretary for International Security and Nonproliferation,
Department of State

End text of letter.

¶4. POINTS OF CONTACT: Washington points of contact on the PSI are Jane Purcell, e-mail: PurcelJa@state.gov, 202-647-6186; and Carlos Guzman, e-mail: GuzmanCS@state.gov, 202-647-6320. Department appreciates Post's assistance.
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